THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As per the information furnished by the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, out of a total electorate of 8,707,531 the number of persons issued with Electoral Photo Identity Cards, free from any defects is 5,800,683. The remaining 2,906,848 electors (33%) are yet to be issued Photo Identity Cards.

(b) The Election Commission of India will give wide publicity whenever the campaign for the issue of Photo Identity Cards is taken up. According to the Commission, the scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards to electors is an ongoing programme due to continuous registration of new electors and hence no time limit can be fixed for completion of such a programme.

Cross voting in Rajya Sabha Elections

†3320. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of money and cross voting in elections to the Rajya Sabha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take strict action to check cross voting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) The Government is aware of allegations made in this regard as reported in the newspapers. Some corrective steps have also been suggested which are under examination by the Government.

Cases pending in Courts

3321. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of five, ten, fifteen and twenty year old cases pending in Supreme Court as well as High Courts, both Civil and Criminal separately; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for speedy disposal of cases?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As per available information the number of civil and criminal cases pending year-wise in the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are as follows:

Supreme Court

	less than 5 years	5-10 years	Over 10 years	
Civil	12436	2513	1528	Actual number of files as on 1.4.1999
Criminal	1083	77	31	

High Courts

	4-5 years	9-10 years	more than 10 years	
Civil	185082	95073	401954	(as during 1998)
Criminal	22371	12156	56889	(as during 1998)

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/ tribunals, improvement in the standards of legal education, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Efforts are also being made to secure more funds for setting up of more courts.

Influence of money power in the elections of Members to the Upper House

3322. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has recently asked the Central Government to take effective steps so that the elections of the Members to the Upper House of Parliament are not influenced by money power;